To Mr. A. A. Phelps, Chester January 1829

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Dear Sir, Your letter was duly received, and I have the satisfaction of informing you that the subjects of it was neither a news nor an uninteresting one to me. It had so far engaged my attention before the last fourth of July, that I laid the plan of having one benevolent object in which the principal men of my Parish would engage and to which they would lend their influence. This was suggested by the circumstance that Senator Bell, as the Hon. Sands B. is here denominated, was a delegate from the New Hamp. Col. Soc. to the parent institution in the City of Washington, and the fact that there was no other benevolent object of the day towards which we had anything like similar feelings. It was however earnestly urged upon ministers by the D. H. C. S. that they should procure a contribution on the 4 of July in aid of its funds and the objects of the national Soc.

Accordingly I proposed to Senator Bell that we should have an address & a collection. The proposal seemed to meet his approbation, and he said, he wished I would prepare an address and make the appointment. I objected, that I wished an address

well stocked with information on the subject in which I was sensible my people were deplorably deficient that I had not the means of collecting together and rendering accurate my own knowledge as to the objects, success & prospects of the national Soc. - and that I did not like to appoint myself to perform this service even though I were even so well prepared. To which he replied - that all feelings of delicacy in such a case as this were out of the question; and that he would furnish me with the reports and publications of the nat. Soc. from the beginning from which I could collect materials - although he was aware that it would cost me some labour.

Upon this I went to the work. It did cost me some labour & some time. But I have never regretted either. I succeeded in giving to the few who attended on the occasion a brief history of the Society, & of the Colony - and a bird's eye view of their present state, with some remarks as to the aspect with which the Colony looks upon Africa. We collected about fifteen Dolls. This was better than I expected.

Now Sir. I am willing to pledge myself again, extraordinaries excepted according to the wishes

of your Committee, unless something can be devised for Chester, which will be better than an address or a sermon from him whose voice they are obliged to hear every Sabbath. Why cannot the Senz furnish us with an orator, or a preacher for the occasion and thus enable us to draw the attention of the people to this occasion more generally? I speak as much in behalf of the cause as on my own account. If better cannot be done, you have my pledge, with the condition. And not only so, but I would express myself willing to serve the cause of Christ & of suffering humanity in any way which lies within the scope of my narrow abilities.

With sentiments of respect

I am Dear Sir your friend

And brother in the Lord

Jacob R. Arnold

Chester N. H.
Jan 22. 1829.

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Mr. Amos A. Phelps
Theol. Sem. Andover
Massachusetts

Rec'd. Jan. 24. 1829.